

was trying to climb for the flowers. The teal flew in a laboured manner for a short distance and then flopped down in a paddy field about 50 feet from me, where it remained flapping its wings. I thought it was an injured bird and the prospect of teal curry prompted me towards it. When I got within a few feet, it rose in laboured flight and flying a short distance flopped down again. I tried to catch it again and it behaved similarly taking me further and further away from the Screw-Pine. It was after a considerable time that it dawned upon me that the teal was drawing me away and the nest was probably in the bush. However by now we had moved far away and it was time to go back to Shantiniketan.

On another occasion I saw from the bank of a small pond a Whistling Teal settle on the open water. From its back 5 or 6 ducklings tumbled into the water after the parent settled.

The birds from the zoo pass over where I stay and large flights may be seen and heard during the cold weather. From early April their numbers appear to diminish, and only small flights of 5 or 10 are seen. Except for the first record of one pair nesting in the rhinoceros paddock (H. A. Fooks; *J. Bombay. nat. Hist. Soc.* 1966, 63: 200) these birds do not nest in the Zoo Gardens, and their dispersal during the breeding season is no doubt responsible for the change in numbers.

10, PARK MANSION,

CALCUTTA-6.

June 1, 1967.

B. BASU

10. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE FULVOUSBREASTED
WOODPECKER *DENDROCOPOS MACEI* (VIEILLOT)
IN SIKKIM

Dr. Sálím Ali in THE BIRDS OF SIKKIM says (p. 97) 'The Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei macei* (Vieillot), was not met with in Sikkim by the Survey, and apparently neither by Schäfer. According to Stevens it occurs in the Rungbong Valley up to c. 3500 ft., and has been obtained in the Teesta Valley at c. 2400 ft.' This note is to record that there is a female *Dendrocopos macei* (Vieillot) collected by Dr. B. Biswas near Pechreck, 6 km. east of Dentam, Kalet Valley, Sikkim (c. 1400 m.), on 1 Jan. 1953 in the Zoological Survey of India Reserve Collection (Coll. No. BSM. 116).

Measurements of the specimen are as follows :

Wing 112 mm., Tail 62 mm., Bill (from skull joint) 25.5 mm.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
BOMBAY, 1-BR,
May 11, 1965.

P. V. GEORGE¹

REFERENCE

ALI, SÁLIM. (1962): The Birds of Sikkim. Oxford University Press.

11. THE JUNGLE CROW, *CORVUS MACRORHYNCHOS*
WAGLER, A DETERMINATE LAYER

During the past couple of years, I have conducted a number of experiments at Poona, in order to ascertain whether or not *Corvus macrorhynchos* Wagler is a determinate layer.

In five nests I added 4 eggs (5 being the largest normal number) each after the first egg was laid. In three of these nests, 3 eggs were laid at intervals of twenty-four hours in spite of the addition; in one 2 eggs, and in the fifth nest 4.

In seven nests the first two eggs laid were removed. In four of these nests 2 more eggs were laid, in two 1 more, and in the last nest 3 more (2 to 5 being the normal clutch).

A clutch of four artificial eggs when placed in a freshly completed empty nest was accepted by the apparently surprised female, who, however, started sitting on it and added to the dummy clutch its own full clutch of four eggs, commencing from the next day.

These experiments conclusively prove that the Jungle Crow neither lays additional eggs to complete a clutch if a part of it is removed nor stops laying if more eggs are added to the incomplete clutch. It is therefore a determinate layer contrary to my previous assumption (Lamba, 1965 : 428).

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
WESTERN REGIONAL STATION,
1182/2, F. C. ROAD,
POONA-5,
July 11, 1967.

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